

WATER DIRECTORATE news

JANUARY 2013

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

In January the Water Directorate celebrates the start of its 15th year of providing technical advice on water matters to NSW LWUs. Approximately 35 technical publications have been distributed to our 97 member Councils over this period. Please go to the website www.waterdirectorate.asn.au to see our publication list and order form.

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

Two publications are progressing. An amended *Water Treatment Plant Guidelines for Residuals Reuse and Backwash Water Reclamation* has been prepared by GHD. Wyong Shire Council has kindly prepared a new document on Building over Sewer Policies. The estimated dates for distribution are February and May respectively.

LAST CALL - NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award again which recognises commitment

to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. Managers of NSW operators who have the abovementioned qualities are urged to nominate their staff before 8 March 2013.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 7th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition on 10 April in Canberra. The winner will join WIOA's tour group and attend a New Zealand conference.

Please go straight to the website and download the nomination form: www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/downloads/NominationForm.pdf

A nomination form is also included with the January newsletter mailed out to Council staff.

TASTE TEST

For the first time the WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition will host for the Orica NSW Water Taste Test.

The Taste Test is a fun and exciting way to raise awareness of the quality of our State's drinking water and to

recognise the efforts of local water utilities in delivering water services to regional communities.

Only LWUs sending operators to the conference are eligible to enter the taste test. Water Directorate members are encouraged to send a water sample to the conference with your operators.

We look forward to seeing as many LWUs at WIOA in Canberra as possible. For more details about the WIOA Conference, Exhibition and the Taste Test please contact Craig Mathisen at WIOA on 03 5821 6744 or craig@wioa.org.au or see the website: www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/news/news_19_december_12.html

WATER DIRECTORATE WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS

In the December newsletter we provided a summary of the Water Directorate's workshop for local government water professionals. The workshop aimed to holistically consider the numerous reviews currently being undertaken or



considered by various NSW Govt departments, such as:

- Local Govt Act Review
- Independent Local Govt Review Panel
- NSW Planning Act Review
- Review of the Adequacy of Water Storages
- Infrastructure Strategy by Infrastructure NSW
- Water Recycling Review - WICA, s60 & s68 approvals

Despite the number of reviews, the State Government has not set a firm direction for the future of Council and County Council LWUs. The workshop outcomes provided a basis for our latest submission to the Local Government Acts Taskforce, Review of the Local Government Act 1993.

A full copy of our submission is available on our website at www.waterdirectoratesn.au/news/news_18_january_13.html.

LAST CALL FOR AWA NSW WATER AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING, STAR ROOM, SYDNEY IMAX THEATRE, 21 FEBRUARY

These awards are the highest accolade in the NSW Water Industry. The Awards acknowledge outstanding work achieved by individuals and organisations in the water sector, as well as promote water and environmental sciences as a career choice through the student category awards.

Please attend the Awards Presentation Evening as the AWA NSW Branch honours organisations and individuals for their outstanding work and achievements.

To register or for more info, visit www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294976129

LAST CALL FOR IWES SYDNEY COURSES

IWES is running an extensive program of 11 courses in water, wastewater and environmental management in Sydney on 18-22 February.

For course info and to download the brochure and registration form go to www.iwes.com.au/pdf/FINAL%20Sydney%20bro%205%20updated%202013.pdf. Please contact IWES about this event on 1800 000 404 or info@iwes.com.au.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition, Canberra, 10-11 April
- IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards, Terrigal, 6-8 May
- Civenex, premier exhibition for civil works, open space mgt, construction & infrastructure, Eastern Creek, 15-16 May
- AWA Ozwater13, International Water Conference and Exhibition, Perth, 7-9 May
- IPWEA (National) Inter-national Public Works Conference, Darwin, 11-15 August
- LGSA Water Management Conference, Terrigal, 8-10 September

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2013 WATER DIRECTORATE/ AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The winner of this award will attend Ozwater'13 in Perth from 7-9 May. The award comprises one full registration to Ozwater'13 valued at \$1,610 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to \$1,600 provided by the Water Directorate.

The aim of this award is to promote young water industry professionals with less than 7 year's work experience. Nominations from final year graduates who are working in the local govt water industry are also welcome.

A nomination form is enclosed with the hardcopy version of this newsletter mailed to LWUs or go to the website at www.waterdirectoratesn.au. The closing date is 28 March.

FLUORIDATION QUERY RESPONSES

Project suggestions from member Councils for consideration at our last Annual Planning Meeting included a need for a standard response to fluoridation queries. The Centre for Oral Health is happy for Councils to use their standard wording, and can help with more complex responses if needed.

NSW Ministry of Health's policy on water fluoridation is that it is a safe, effective and equitable means of reducing dental decay at a population level.

In 2007, the National Health and Medical Research Council, after evaluating the latest scientific evidence, concluded that water fluoridation should continue

as a primary tool in the prevention of dental decay.

The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence does not link water fluoridation at optimal levels (one part per million) to any health related problems. Your concerns have been noted; however NSW Ministry of Health remains committed to the promotion of water fluoridation as a public health measure in preventing tooth decay. If you would like more information on water fluoridation I encourage you to visit the website www.fluoridenow.com.au

For useful references that Councils may wish to include in their responses, see the NSW Health Fact Sheet or see www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/water_fluoridation.html.

For information on community support for fluoridation see www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/fluoridation_support_repo.pdf.

For the Australian Dental Association information on the benefits and safety of fluoridation see www.ada.org.au/oralhealth/fln/fluoridation.aspx.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE

IPWEA (NAMS.AU) has requested that we advise members of their ongoing development in conjunction with Cardno of a draft practice note for condition assessment for water supply and sewerage.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2013 are:

- 14 March
- 2 May
- 11 July
- 5 September
- 6 and 7 November

Members are welcome to forward issues for consideration at these meetings.

The new Executive Committee will meet for the first time on 14 March 2013 and the first duty will be to elect a Chair for the next two years.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
January 2013
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